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To: Executive Staff
Regional Directors
Area Directors

From: James Bell
Assistant Commissioner
Office for Professional Services

Subject: Profiles of Children Adopted and Children with Guardianships Granted in FY1988

This report describes the characteristics of children who were adopted or had guardians appointed during the period July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988. The described characteristics include sex, ethnicity/race, preferred language, and age of the child at the time the adoption was legalized or the guardianship granted. Other information includes the type of adoptive home (unrelated foster home, relative(s), or recruited), and the amount of time spent in substitute care prior to adoption or guardianship. Also noted is the frequency and size of sibling groups among children adopted or with guardianships.

Questions or suggestions may be directed to Tony Felix (617-727-0900, Ext. 279), Research, Evaluation, and Planning Unit, Central Office. Requests for additional copies should be made to the REP Unit at extension 243.

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ADOPTION

Description of All Children Adopted in FY1988

There were 536 adoptions during the period July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988.

Sex and Age: Fifty-three percent of the adopted children were boys and 47% were girls. The age distributions of boys and girls were similar (Fig. 1). Eighty-six percent of all children were under 12 years old (Table 1, Fig. 1). The median age of all adopted children was six years.[1]

Race/Ethnicity: Sixty-five percent of the children were white, 17% were black, and 6% were Hispanic (predominately Puerto Rican). The remaining children were divided among Portuguese, Cape Verdeans, Asians/Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, and others (Table 2). Only 2% of the children were identified as preferring to speak a language other than English (mainly Spanish).

Sibling Groups: The 536 children were comprised of 203 children in 88 sibling groups and 333 children without siblings.

Type of Home: Fifty-one percent of the children were adopted by unrelated foster parents, 36% by recruited adoptive parents, 8% by relative(s), and 5% by individuals whose relationship to the child was unknown at the time of data compilation (Table 3). Adoptions by relatives were more common for minorities than for white children (Table 4). Hispanic children were more likely than black or white children to be adopted by unrelated foster parents, and white children were more likely than minorities to be adopted by recruited parents.

Time in Placement: The median time from first placement (the most recent case opening) to legalization of the adoption was 2.8 years with 91% waiting more than one year (Fig. 2). The median time since entering the most recent placement to legalization was 1.4 years with 62% waiting more than one year (Fig. 3).

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[1] Half of the children were older than six years and half were younger.

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Description of Adopted Children by DSS Service Region

Adopted children were regionally distributed as follows:

I (Western Mass.)	64	children
II (Central Mass.)	74	
III (North Shore)	115	
IV (Greater Boston)	61	
V (Southeastern Mass.)	103	
VI (Boston/Brookline)	119	

Age: Table 1 displays the distribution of adopted children by age and DSS Regions. Region IV was distinguished from the other Regions by its relatively larger percentages of younger adopted children (under six years old). Both Regions IV and III had a notably higher proportion of children under three years old. In contrast, Regions V and VI had higher proportions of adopted children 12 years and older.

Race/Ethnicity: The proportion of adopted children who were white ranged from 39% in Region VI to 86% in Region II (Table 2). Black children were most prominent in Region VI--exceeding white children by 48% to 39%. Region I had the largest proportion of Hispanic children (all of whom were of Puerto Rican ethnicity).

Type of Home: The percentage of adopted children in unrelated foster homes ranged from 41% in Region V to 63% in Region III (Table 3). Region IV had the highest proportion of adopted children in recruited homes (52%). Regions III and VI had the lowest proportions of children adopted by recruited parents. However, unlike Region III, Region VI had a greater percentage of children adopted by relatives.

Description of Children with Guardianships in FY1988

Guardianships were granted for 216 children during the period July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988.

Sex, Age, and Sibling Groups: Fifty-three percent of the children with guardianships granted were boys and 45% were girls.[2] There were 94 children in 42 sibling groups of 2 to 4 children. Of the total 216 children, 51% were under 12 years old (Table 5). The median age was 11 years old. Guardianships are generally restricted to children who are at least 12 years old. Exceptions are made "for sibling groups or when the child's needs are such that guardianship is the best permanent alternative available."

Fourteen of the 111 children under 12 years old entered guardianship with siblings 12 years or older. Of the remaining 97 children, 70 were in placement with relatives, 23 in foster homes, and 4 in adoptive homes/institutions before guardianship was granted.

Race/Ethnicity: Fifty-nine percent of the children were white (Table 6). Black children accounted for 25% and Hispanics (mainly Puerto Rican) amounted to 5%. A language other than English (Spanish) was preferred by 2% of the children.

Placement Location Prior to Guardianship: Fifty percent of the children were placed with relatives prior to guardianship being granted. Most of the remaining children were in unrelated foster homes (44%).

Location	Number of Children
w/Relative	108
Unrelated Foster Home	94
Institution	4
Adoptive Home	3
Independent Living	1
Information Unavailable	6

Time in Placement: The median time since entering the most recent placement to leaving placement for guardianship was 1.4 years. Fifty-nine percent of these children waited more than one year (Fig. 4). Of those children who waited less than one year, 64% had relatives appointed as guardians.

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[2] Sex was unspecified for five children.

Description of Children with Guardians by DSS Service Region

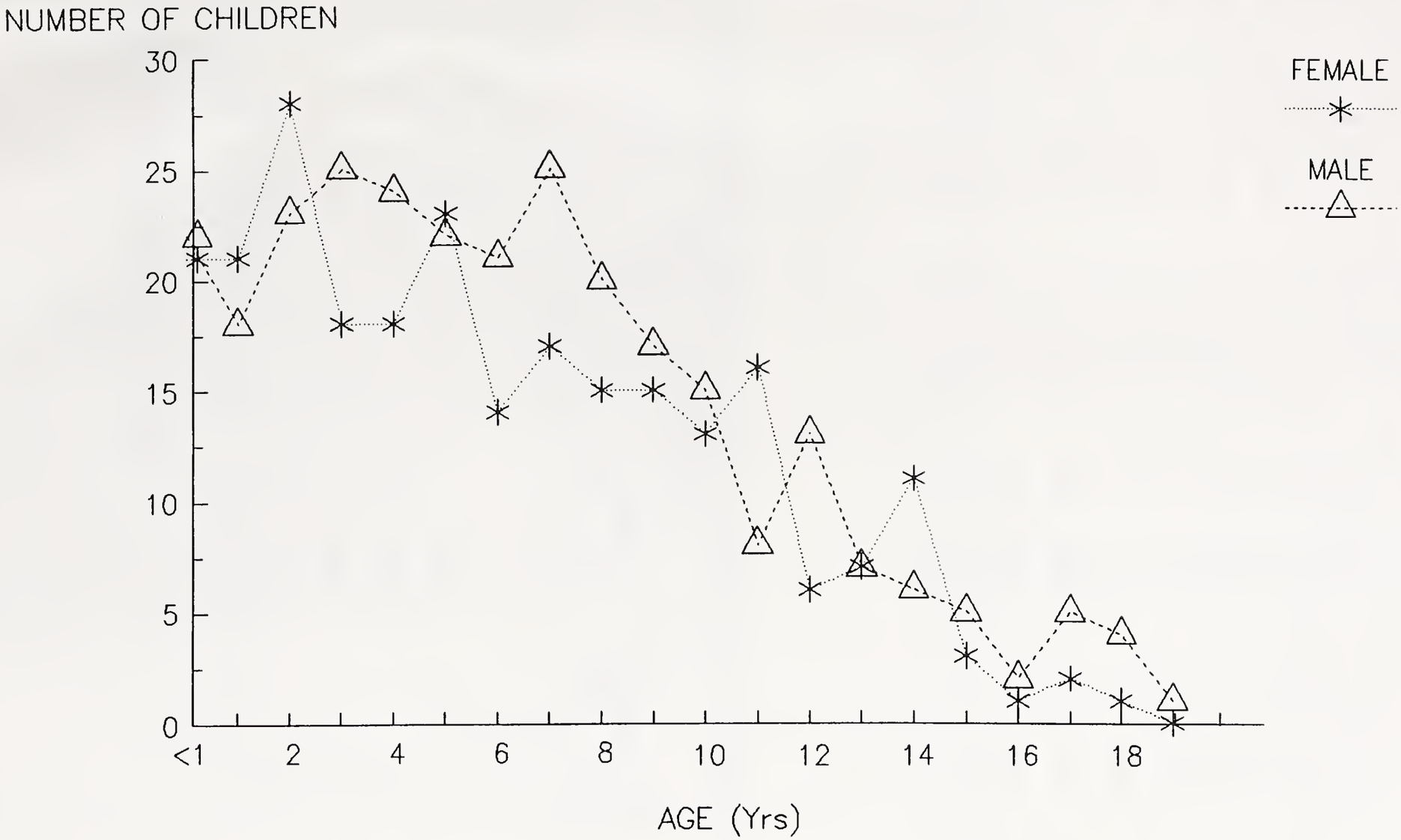
Children with guardianships were regionally distributed as follows:

DSS Region	Number of Children
I	49
II	28
III	39
IV	30
V	29
VI	41

Age: Regions II, V, and VI had the highest proportions (61-62%) of children under 12 years old with guardianships (Table 5). Region IV had the lowest (37%), followed by Regions III (41%) and I (49%).

Race/Ethnicity: Regions VI and I had the largest proportions of black children with guardianships (Table 6). The proportion of white children ranged from 29% in Region I to 86% in II.

FIGURE 1. AGE AND SEX OF CHILDREN ADOPTED DURING JULY 1, 1987 To JUNE 30, 1988



SOURCE: ASSIST Extract Tapes (Run-Date 1/19/89)

Table 1. Ages of Children Adopted in FY88 by DSS Service Region.

	Number of Children Age (yrs)											
	0-2		3-5		6-8		9-11		12+		Total	
Region	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
I	15	(23)	18	(28)	13	(20)	10	(16)	8	(12)	64	(12)
II	20	(27)	20	(27)	16	(22)	14	(19)	4	(5)	74	(14)
III	37	(32)	27	(23)	24	(21)	17	(15)	10	(9)	115	(21)
IV	20	(33)	21	(34)	11	(18)	3	(5)	6	(10)	61	(11)
V	18	(17)	21	(20)	24	(23)	20	(19)	20	(19)	103	(19)
VI	25	(21)	24	(20)	24	(20)	20	(17)	26	(22)	119	(22)
State	135	(25)	131	(24)	112	(21)	84	(16)	74	(14)	536	(100)

Table 2 . Ethnicity of Children Adopted in FY88 by DSS Service Region.

	Number of Children											
	Black		White		Hispanic		Other		Unspecified		Total	
Region	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
I	6	(9)	36	(56)	10	(16)	9	(14)	3	(5)	64	(12)
II	3	(4)	64	(86)	3	(4)	3	(4)	1	(1)	74	(14)
III	6	(5)	94	(82)	8	(7)	7	(6)	0	(0)	115	(21)
IV	10	(16)	37	(61)	2	(3)	10	(16)	2	(3)	61	(11)
V	8	(8)	73	(71)	6	(6)	14	(14)	2	(2)	103	(19)
VI	57	(48)	46	(39)	4	(3)	10	(8)	2	(2)	119	(22)
State	90	(17)	350	(65)	33	(6)	53	(10)	10	(2)	536	(100)

SOURCE: ASSIST Extract Tapes (Run-Date 1/19/89)

Table 3. Children Adopted in FY88 by Type of Home and DSS Service Region.

	Number of Children									
	Unrelated Foster Home		Recruited Home		Relative		Unknown *		Total	
Region	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
I	30	(47)	22	(34)	7	(11)	5	(8)	64	(12)
II	38	(51)	26	(35)	2	(3)	8	(11)	74	(14)
III	72	(63)	31	(27)	8	(7)	4	(3)	115	(21)
IV	26	(43)	32	(52)	1	(2)	2	(3)	61	(11)
V	42	(41)	50	(49)	10	(10)	1	(1)	103	(19)
VI	65	(55)	30	(25)	17	(14)	7	(6)	119	(22)
State	273	(51)	191	(36)	45	(8)	27	(5)	536	(100)

(*) Relationship to adoptive parent unknown at time of data compilation.

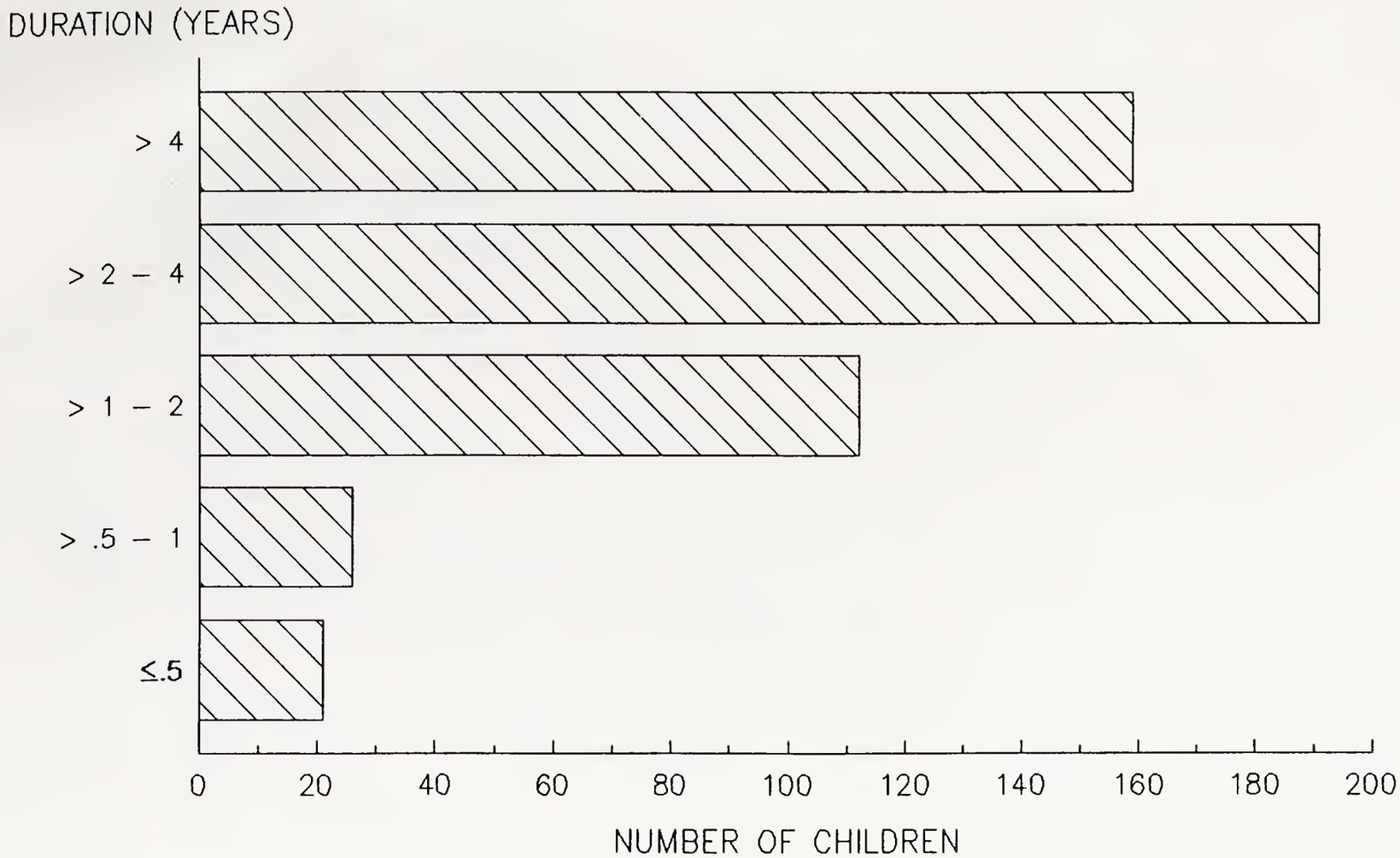
Table 4. Ethnicity of Children Adopted in FY88 by Type of Home.

	Number of Children											
Type of Home	Black		White		Hispanic		Other		Unspecified		Total	
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Unrelated Foster Homes	42	(47)	182	(52)	19	(58)	25	(47)	5	(50)	273	(51)
Recruited Homes	27	(30)	131	(37)	10	(30)	19	(36)	4	(40)	191	(36)
Relative	13	(14)	20	(6)	4	(12)	8	(15)	0	(0)	45	(8)
Unknown (*)	8	(9)	17	(5)	0	(0)	1	(2)	1	(10)	27	(5)
State	90	(100)	350	(100)	33	(100)	53	(100)	10	(100)	536	(100)

(*) Relationship to adoptive parents unknown at time of data compilation.

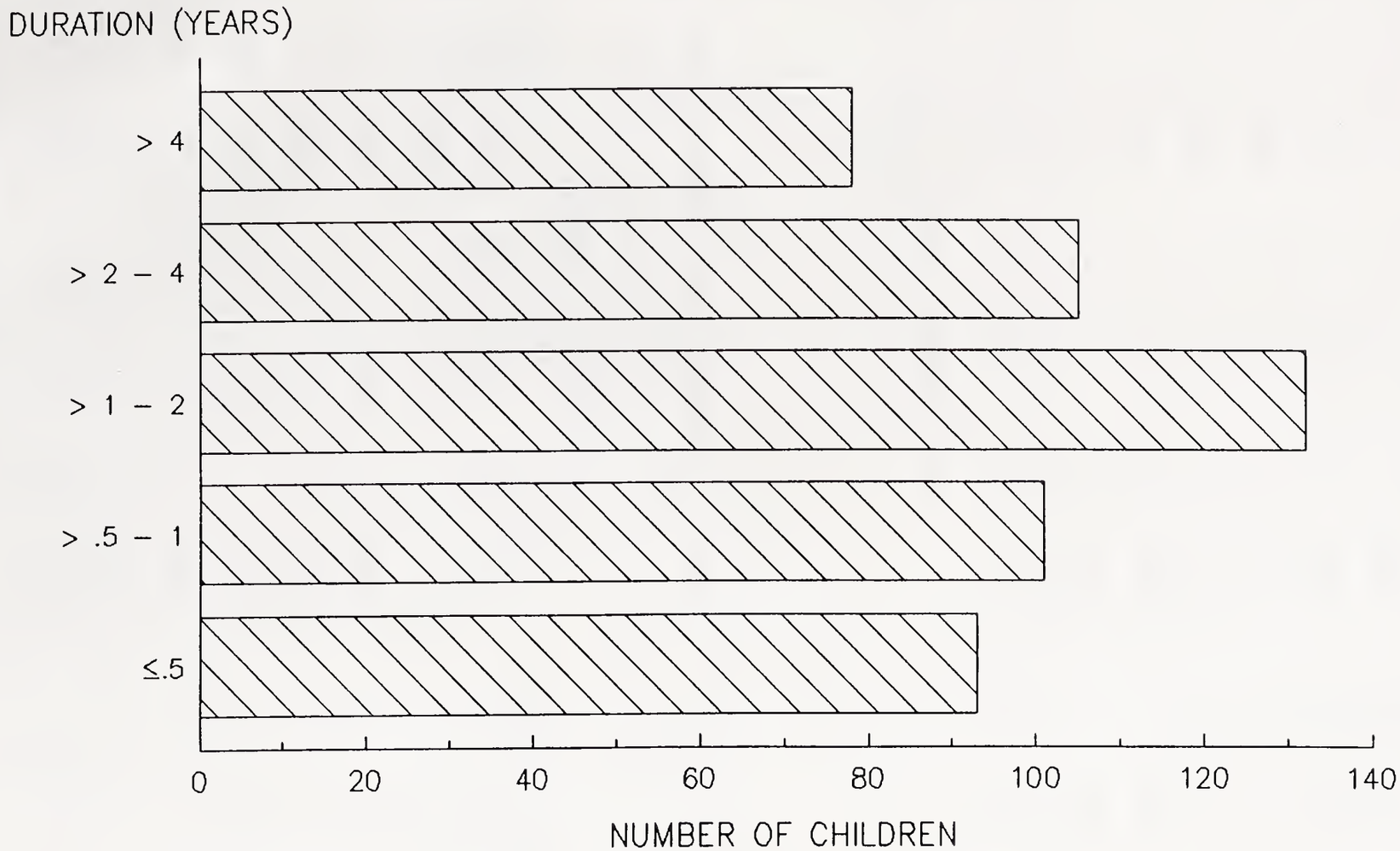
SOURCE: ASSIST Extract Tapes (Run-Date 1/19/89)

Figure 2. Adopted Children:
Duration of Time from First Entering
Placement to Adoption Legalization



SOURCE: ASSIST Extract Tapes (Run–Date 1/19/89)

Figure 3. Adopted Children: Duration of Time from Most Recent Placement to Adoption Legalization



SOURCE: ASSIST Extract Tapes (Run–Date 1/19/89)

Table 5. Ages of Children with Guardianships Granted in FY88 by DSS Service Region.

	Number of Children Age (yrs)											
	0-2		3-5		6-8		9-11		12+		Total	
Region	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
I	4	(8)	9	(18)	6	(12)	5	(10)	25	(51)	49	(23)
II	4	(14)	2	(7)	4	(14)	7	(25)	11	(39)	28	(13)
III	6	(15)	2	(5)	5	(13)	3	(9)	23	(59)	39	(18)
IV	3	(10)	3	(10)	2	(7)	3	(10)	19	(63)	30	(14)
V	2	(7)	4	(14)	3	(10)	9	(31)	11	(38)	29	(13)
VI	7	(18)	4	(10)	6	(15)	8	(20)	15	(38)	41*	(19)
State	26	(12)	24	(11)	26	(12)	35	(16)	104	(48)	216	(100)

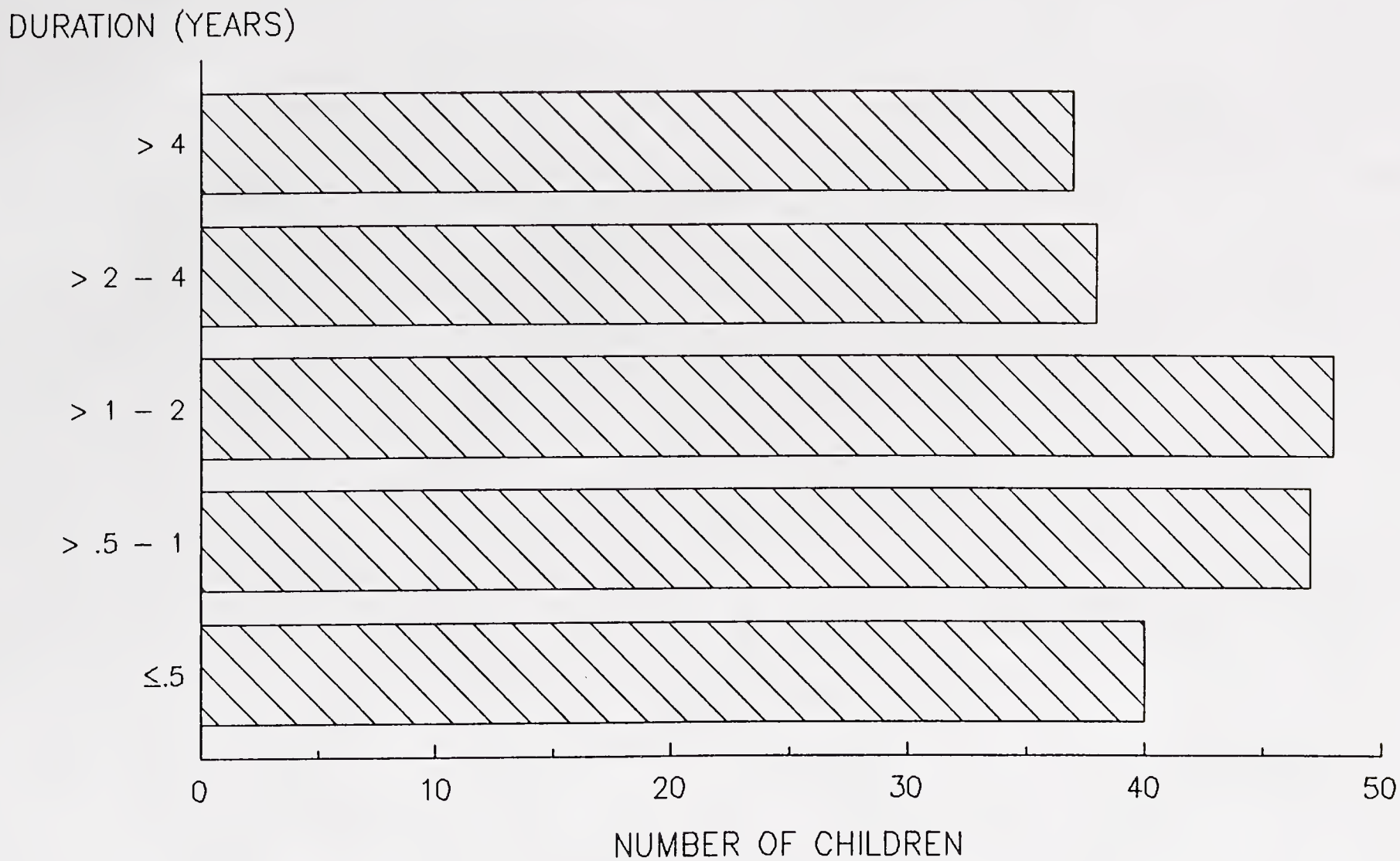
(*) One child's age in Region VI was unspecified.

Table 6. Ethnicity of Children with Guardianship Granted in FY88 by DSS Service Region.

	Number of Children											
	Black		White		Hispanic		Other		Unspecified		Total	
Region	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
I	26	(53)	14	(29)	3	(6)	3	(6)	3	(6)	49	(23)
II	3	(11)	24	(86)	1	(4)	0	(0)	0	(0)	28	(13)
III	1	(3)	31	(79)	2	(5)	3	(8)	2	(5)	39	(18)
IV	2	(7)	22	(73)	2	(7)	1	(3)	3	(10)	30	(14)
V	0	(0)	21	(72)	1	(3)	7	(24)	0	(0)	29	(13)
VI	23	(56)	15	(37)	1	(2)	2	(5)	0	(0)	41	(19)
State	55	(25)	127	(59)	10	(5)	16	(7)	8	(4)	216	(100)

SOURCE: ASSIST Extract Tapes (Run-Date 1/19/89)

Figure 4. Guardianship Children:
Duration of Time from Most Recent Placement
to Guardianship Granted



SOURCE: ASSIST Extract Tapes (Run–Date 1/19/89)